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OF COUNSEL
WILLIAM G. CONLY

October 14, 2002

Honorable James H. Welsh
Commissioner of Conservation
State of Louisiana
Post Office Box 44275
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4275

Re: APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

Rodessa Zone, Reservoir A, and James Lime, Reservoir
A, WEST BRYCELAND FIELD, Bienville Parish,
Louisiana.

Dear Sir:

EL PASO PRODUCTION COMPANY ("Applicant") hereby respectfully applies for a public hearing to consider evidence relative to the issuance of Orders pertaining to the following matters relating to the Rodessa Zone, Reservoir A, and to the James Lime, Reservoir A, in the West Bryceland Field, Bienville Parish, Louisiana:

1. To create one (1) additional drilling and production unit for the exploration for and production of gas and condensate from the Rodessa Zone, Reservoir A, such unit being shown on the attached plat and being designated ROD RA SUC.

2. To force pool and integrate all separately owned tracts, mineral leases and other property interests within the proposed additional unit in accordance with Section 10, Title 30, of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, with each tract sharing in unit production on a surface acreage basis of participation.

3. To designate Applicant as Operator of the proposed additional unit.

4. To designate the El Paso Production Company--Merritt E No. 6-D Well, located as shown on the attached plat, as the unit well for the proposed unit, in exception to the well location provisions of Office of Conservation Order No. 241-E, effective August 13, 2002.

5. To approve the downhole combination of production from the Rodessa Zone, Reservoir A, underlying ROD RA SUC, and from the James Lime, Reservoir A, underlying JA RA SUA, in the wellbore of the Merritt E No. 6-D Well, and in the wellbore of any existing or future well located on those units in which the ownership interest in the Rodessa Zone, Reservoir A, and the James Lime, Reservoir A, is identical.

6. To extend, except as in conflict herewith, the provisions of Office of Conservation Order No. 241-E, effective August 13, 2002, to the proposed additional unit.

7. To discuss such other matters as may be pertinent.

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The Rodessa Zone, Reservoir A, in the West Bryceland Field, Bienville Parish, Louisiana, was defined in Office of Conservation Order No. 241-E, effective August 13, 2002.

The James Lime, Reservoir A, in the West Bryceland Field, Bienville Parish, Louisiana, was defined in Office of Conservation Order No. 241-D, effective April 10, 2001.

Pertinent data concerning this application is available for inspection at the offices of Louis Gilbert & Associates, Inc., 3636 N. Causeway Boulevard, Suite 204, Metairie, Louisiana 70002-7216. Any person wishing to inspect such data should call Mr. Louis Gilbert at (504) 834-8112 during normal business hours in order to arrange a date and time for such inspection. A copy of any such pertinent data which is not otherwise available from the records of the Louisiana Office of Conservation can be obtained from Applicant at the expense of the requesting party.

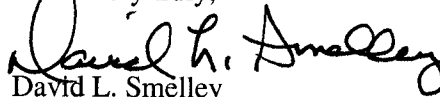
By letter dated October 2, 2002, Applicant gave notice, in accordance with the Revised Rules of Procedure, of its intention to apply for a public hearing concerning these proposals and set October 23, 2002, as the tentative date for the pre-application conference. No request for the pre-application conference was received; accordingly, no pre-application conference was held.

Pursuant to the Revised Rules of Procedure, Applicant has made a reasonable effort to obtain the names and addresses of all Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties to whom notice of this application is being sent and has attached hereto a list of the names and addresses of such parties. A copy of the unit plat (which is identical to the unit plat attached to the pre-application notice) is enclosed herewith, and a copy of this letter and of the attached plat is being sent to the District Manager of the Shreveport District of the Office of Conservation and to each of the Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties as shown on the attached list.

Applicant will provide for posting of a copy of the Legal Notice of this hearing, and of the enclosed plat, at a prominent place in the area affected and will cause publication of the Legal Notice in a newspaper published in the general area of West Bryceland Field, all in accordance with the Revised Rules of Procedure. Furthermore, Applicant will mail a copy of the Legal Notice to all Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties promptly upon receipt of the Legal Notice from the Commissioner.

Finally, enclosed herewith is our check payable to the Office of Conservation covering the application fee.

Yours very truly,



David L. Smelley

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Attorney for El Paso Production Company

DLS:dp

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Jim Broussard (w/encl.)
Mr. Jerry McAnulty (w/encl.)
Mr. Gary Griffith (w/encl.)
Mr. Louis Gilbert (w/encl.)
Interested Owners, Represented Parties
and Interested Parties (w/plat only)

